

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20580

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 29 1981

Martin London
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154

Dear Mr. London:

The Commission wishes to apprise you of the status of the investigation concerning the request by the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company that the cigarette holder currently being used in the Commission's Cigarette Laboratory testing procedure be modified. On October 9, 1981 the Commission notified you by letter that it had asked the staff to prepare by October 19, 1981 a recommendation as to what action, if any, including what interim action, it believes is appropriate based upon the evidence available to it on that date. As directed, the staff forwarded its recommendations on October 19, 1981.

On October 15, 1981, the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation submitted a letter to the Commission requesting that the Commission take no action on this investigation until Brown and Williamson submitted its response to the submissions of the other companies. At that time Brown and Williamson informed the Commission that it would file its response no later than October 23. Brown and Williamson's submission was received on October 23.

In light of the importance of this investigation, the Commission has decided to grant Brown and Williamson's request and will take no action on this matter until Brown and Williamson's submission has been reviewed. The Commission has instructed the staff to review this material promptly and to prepare a supplemental memorandum reporting the results of that review as soon as possible, but, in any case, no later than November 20. You may be assured that the Commission and the staff will continue to expedite this investigation in order to resolve it as rapidly as possible.

By direction of the Commission.

signed and hand-delivered

Carol M. Thomas
Secretary

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Identical letters (not attached) were sent to:

2. Joseph Greer, Liggett
3. Arthur J. Stevens, Lorillard
4. Arnold Henson, American Brands
5. Samuel B. Witt, III, RJR
6. Abe Krash, Counsel for PM
7. Alexander Holtzman, PM
8. Ernest Pepples, B&W